S A N A T A N

Pratnakirttimapavrinu
(Let us attempt to unravel the glorious past – *Rigveda*)

Editor
Dr Alok Tripathi

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Khajuraho : Chandella king Vakpati (source: Alok Tripathi)

South **A**sian **N**etwork of **A**rcheologists/academicians for **T**echnical and **A**rtistic **N**urturing

"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome."
- Samuel Johnson

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EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

In each issue of Sanatan members must be finding some changes. Change is the indication of growth. Since we started including research articles we are receiving a number of articles from our members. It has now been realized that it is the fastest way to share researches with the maximum number of professionals which is not possible through any other journal or publication.

Information on heritage management included in this issue are vital. Registration of criminal case against a senior bureaucrat, architect and a trust on the direction the High Court is a wakeup alarm for all those concerned with heritage. One must realize that the issues related to heritage should not be taken lightly and due regard should be given to laws related to the protection of cultural heritage. It also makes it clear that the public is becoming aware about preservation of their heritage and would not allow anymore to deface or misuse it.

Editor

RESEARCHES

Thermoluminescence (TL) Dating of Slag from Tumu Ching, Manipur

Excavation at Tumu Ching (lat. 24° 28' 38" N., long. 93° 57' 28" E.) a small hillock at a height of 776 m. above sea-level, near Kakching ~ 70 km. from Imphal, the capital city of Manipur has revealed plenty of iron slag in an area of ~ 0.5 km^2. Baked sediments adhered to a broken piece of a slag has been dated by TL dating. The equivalent dose of the quartz extracted yield (3.37 ± 0.01) Gy. This corresponds to an age of (1600±100) years; the period when king Khamlangba ruled Manipur from 300 to 500 CE.


Tumu Ching : Ancient iron smelting site in Manipur (source : Authors)

Archaeometallurgy provides valuable input to understand the broad cultural framework of any civilization and helps in establishing the chronology of the technology in addition to the scientific aspects of the ancient metallurgy. Here comes the importance of application of dating techniques, which are routinely used by the archaeologists. In addition to C^{14} dating, Luminescence dating is also useful under favourable condition.

Recently our team studied some ancient iron–smelting sites of Kakching in Thoubal district of Manipur for providing a chronology of iron smelting in North East India. This paper reports the application of thermoluminescence (TL) dating to a unique piece of archaeological slag which is most probably, the first scientific dating of slag in this part of India.

The site locally known as Tumu Ching lies in an area which according to historical records is famous for ancient iron smelting. It lies about 70 km. east of Imphal the capital city of Manipur and is about 40 km. from the Indo – Myanmar border. The site was discovered in 2008 by our team which today boasts of a rich standing crop of sugar-cane. The area is full of slag. Historical records also tell that when King Khuiyok Tompok (154 - 264 CE) was having a tour to Kakching, iron deposits were found at this place. This reveals that iron deposits were found prior to this period. During excavation just below the surface two large pieces of slag that formed the ancient furnace could be found. A layer of sediment, few mm. in thickness was attached to one such piece. This paper reports the TL age of the archeological slag by dating the baked sediment.



Tumu Ching : A sample of slag that formed a part of the furnace
(source : Authors)

Sample Preparation

The slag collected from the iron smelting place was washed with water in a tub. This removes the outer soil from the slag. It is washed again with water in another tub to extract the soil which was not exposed to sunlight. The soil so extracted is treated with 30 %

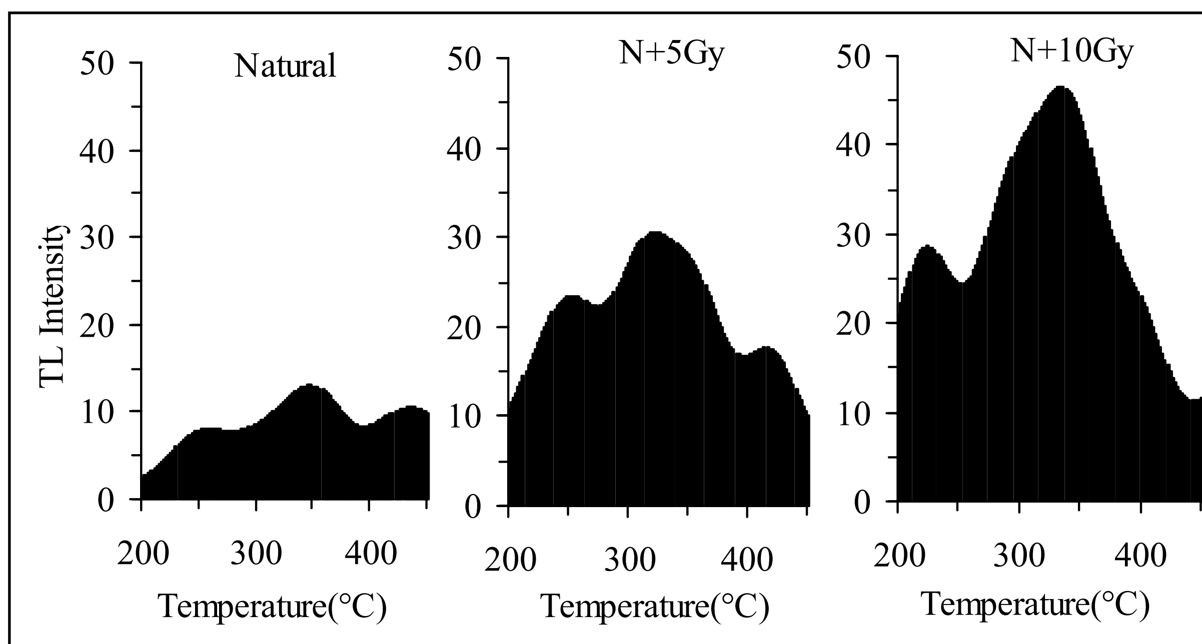
Hydrogen Peroxide (H_2O_2) to remove organic materials contained in the soil, 10% HCl to remove carbonates. Finally the soil is treated with dilute HF for about 30 minutes and then, with concentrate HF for another about 40 minutes to extract Quartz contents.

TL Measurement

All measurements of the samples were carried out on the Risø TL/OSL (Model TL/OSL – DA-15*)* reader using internal Sr/Y-90 beta source. Detection filter was the combination of Schott UG-11 and BG-39 filters. The Risø TL/OSL reader is a commercial system which is used globally for dating and dosimetry. The heating rate used was 5° C/sec, with the final temperature set to 575° C. All measurements are done in flowing N_2 atmosphere. The NTL glow curves as well as N+βi glow curves were recorded after glowing out the sample up to 175° C to remove unwanted lower temperature glow peaks.

Results

NTL curves of the sample and N+βi Curves are presented in figure given below.

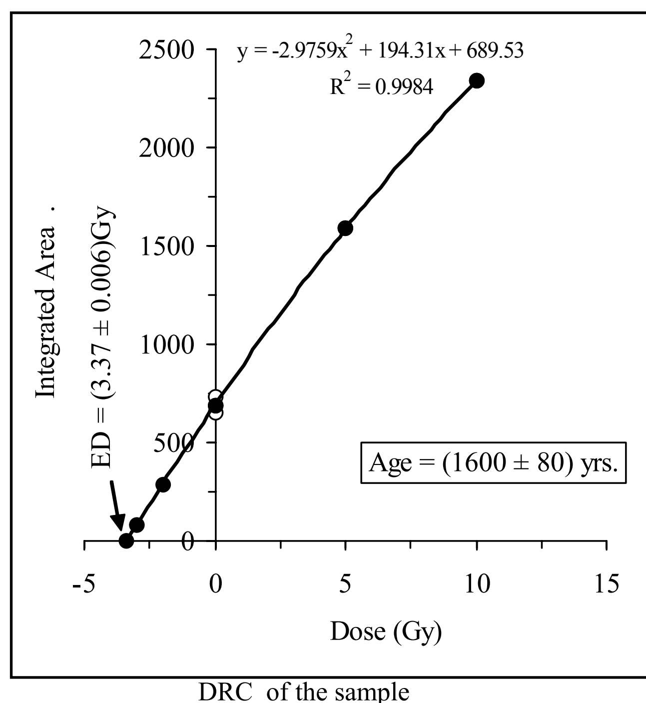


Natural, N+5Gy and N+10Gy β- irradiation TL curves

Equivalent Dose (ED) of the sample has been determined by the usual additive dose method. It is found to be about 3.37 Gy.

The exact dose rate of the place from where the samples were collected is not yet measured. The dose rate used in the calculation of age here is the average dose rate (2.47 Gy/Ka) of various sites of Manipur as previously determined at the Luminescence Dating Laboratory of Manipur University.

The age of the sample is determined by the formula $Age = \frac{Equivalent \quad Dose\,(Gy)}{Dose \quad Rate\,(Gy/ka)}$



DRC of the sample

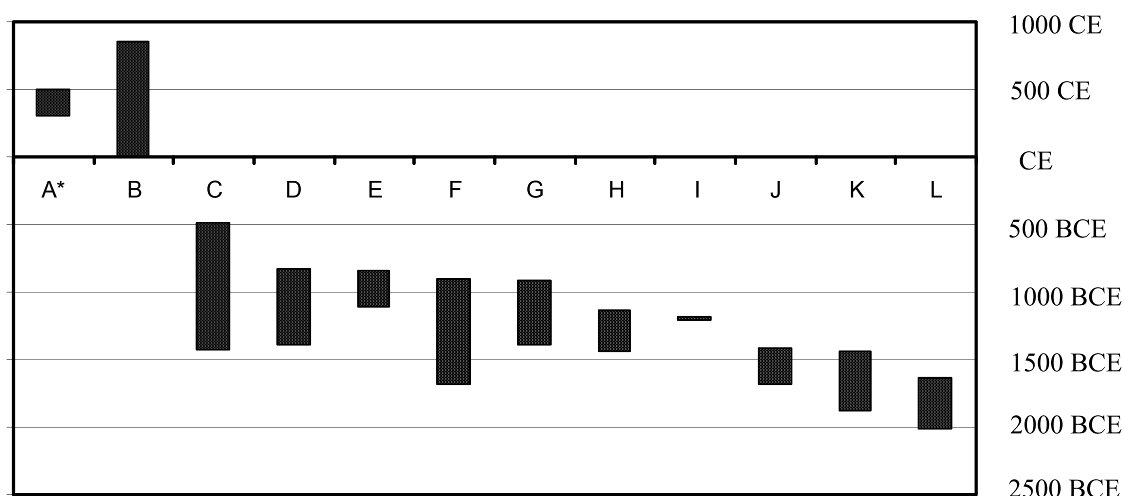
Using this formula, the age of the sample was found to be about 1600 ± 100 a. This reveals that, Iron was smelted at this site of Tumu Ching, Kakching, Manipur around 400 CE. The smelting of iron, according to the historical records, continued up to 1839 CE during the period of king Churachand and stopped after iron was brought from outside in large scales.

Discussion

Slag is a byproduct produced during smelting of iron. It contains Silica, Calcium Oxide and other impurities in the form of Silicate matter. As we know, iron and its alloys are the most used material in the world and they have made their mark in the development of human civilization which is popularly known as Iron Age.

The beginning of Iron Age varies from region to region. As for example, it is believed to have begun in the Middle East and South Eastern Europe as early as 1200 BCE whereas in China as late as not until 600 BCE. It continued form nearly 2000 years and helped in formation of powerful empires. In a recent publication, Rakesh Tewari reported the date and origins of iron-working in the Central Ganga plain and eastern Vindhyas. But in North Eastern India, we do not have the chronology of iron smelting. The date of Tumu Ching,

Manipur, gives simply a glimpse into the ancient iron industry in Manipur, whose beginning and end are yet to be known. However, this work clearly demonstrates that ancient metallurgists of Manipur were at work, smelting iron during the period 300- 500 CE. This is found to be almost contemporary with the TL dating age of three iron smelters located at the Birimi site in the Northern Region of Ghana.



Dates for early iron use from Indian sites. A - Kakching, Manipur (TL), B - Ataranjikhera, UP (^{14}C), C - Raja Nala-ka-tila, UP (^{14}C), D - Hallur, Karnataka (^{14}C), E - Jhusi, UP, F - Veerapuram, Andhra Pradesh (^{14}C), G - Adam, Maharashtra (^{14}C), H - Komaranhalli, Karnataka (TL), I - Lahuradewa, UP (^{14}C), J - Ramapuram, Andhra Pradesh (^{14}C), K - Dadupur, UP (^{14}C), and L - Malha, Candauli UP (^{14}C).

Conclusion

The preliminary round of measurement of a piece of sample collected from a particular place reveals that the iron had been smelted at this site around 300 to 500 CE. However, we are yet to go for further studies to find the exact period of starting and end of the smelting at this site. The large quantity of slag found at the site suggests that iron ores might have been richly deposited in the adjoining areas and iron smelting might have been done at large scales. Proper investigation may probably lead to the revival of these technology at large scales. The dating of this ancient archaeometallurgical slag will really contribute tremendously to the archaeological asset of Manipur.

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RESEARCHES

Portrait of Chandella king Vakpati

Temples of Chandella period at Khajuraho in district Chhatarpur of Madhya Pradesh are among the finest examples of north Indian temple architecture. These lofty temples are profusely decorated with a variety of sculptures which are fine examples of medieval art. These abodes of Gods have attracted archaeologists and art-historians from around the world. There is a mound of literature available on the art and architecture of these monuments but still many important aspects remains to be studied. There are many sculptures which were not considered important by earlier scholars (*Sanatan* 17: 10-12). One such group of sculptures are the royal portraits of the Chandella kings which were not identified earlier.



Khajuraho : Lakshamana temple (source : Alok Tripathi)

A series of 120 panels fixed in the upper *anterpatra* molding on the *jagati* of Lakshamana temple depict the Chandella history carved in stones. Comparison of these depictions with the events recorded in the Dhanga's inscription of V.S. 1011 (954 CE) helped author to identify them. The kings mentioned in the said inscription have also been carved on the

jagati of Lakshamana temple.



Khajuraho : Inscription of Dhanga in Lakshamana temple (source : Alok Tripathi)

Nannuka was the first king of the dynasty and after him his son Vakpati ascended on the throne. He defeated the enemies in the battle and was a good orator. Qualities of this second king of Chandella dynasty are described in the inscription of Dhanga, which is now fixed in the *mandapa* of the same temple. Verses 12 - 13 mention "…whose speech was like that of Vakpati, 'the lord of speech', was born the illustrious Vakpati, whose spotless fame roams about in all the three worlds, together verily with the rays of the sun."



Khajuraho : Panel on the *jagati* of Lakshamana temple portraying king Vakpati (source : Alok Tripathi)

Panel 26 on the *jagati* shows this illustrious king Vakpati. Victorious king who was known as good speaker is shown sitting in his palace and delivering a speech to a big gathering. King is shown bearded and pot-bellied, symbolizing royalty. He is seated on an *asana* having high, sliding back-rest. The pavilion with battlements, under which he is sitting is suggestive of fort or palace. As all the kings are carved accompanied with a variety of attendants, Vakpati is also attended by male and female attendants and also with a secretary (*sachiva*).



Khajuraho : Chandella king Vakpati

Vakpati being the king is shown most prominently. He is sitting under a canopy. Even while sitting his height is equal to the attendant standing in front of him.

He has long hair tied at the back of the head in a bun. Unlike other kings he is shown holding a book in his left hand. A female attendant standing in front of him is giving air by a fan which she holds in her raised right hand. Kings carved in these panels are distinguishable from other nobles of the court or royal family by their depiction. Vakpati is also shown surrounded by male and female attendants. Three persons – two men and a woman, are standing behind him. The man standing behind the king is holding a bag on his left shoulder. This bag on the shoulder of an attendant represents *kosha*. Behind him stands a woman holding a cup in her left hand. Most interesting among all is the man standing at the end and holding a writing pad under his left arm. He seems to be his secretary who recorded the orders and the speeches of the king.



Khajuraho : Attendants and *sachiva*

Seven listeners, carved in front of the king are also of great interest. Four of them are sitting where as three other are standing. On the other end stands a man with a long sword. These eight persons represent various sections of the society — Brahman, Kshtriya and Vaishya.



Four bearded men sitting in front of the king are those most respected in the society, hence shown seated in front of the king. They may be identified with Brahmins. The identification is not only due to their status in society but also due to their close resemblance with the *purohita* who is shown performing the marriage of king Harsha in another panel.



Purohit sitting in court





Purohit performing marriage of Harsha

The one standing at the front is a warrior. He is potbellied and having long beard. He has tied a dagger around his waist and is also holding a *danda* in his right hand. He represents warriors or kshatriyas. Two other men standing behind him are lean and thin and clean-shaved. They may be identified as vaishyas. The man standing at the end with a long sword is a guard.

These historic scenes carved on the *jagati* of the temple are unique of their kind and of great historic and artistic significance. It is unfortunate that due to their small size and location on the platform their importance was not realized. Like other royal portraits this scene depicting king Vakpati was also always misinterpreted by earlier scholars as depiction of a religious discourse.

- Alok Tripathi
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CONFERENCE / SEMINAR

Joint Workshop on Marine World Heritage Site Selection and Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf and Red Sea

24-26 February 2009, Manama, Bahrain

UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IUCN-WCPA and the Kingdom of Bahrain would be organising a workshop of global and regional marine experts to train and build capacity on World Heritage. The workshop will include two parallel streams - initiating a global process to identify potential marine World Heritage sites, and reviewing and prioritising marine World Heritage and marine protected area potential in the Gulf and Red Sea.

The workshop will bring together IUCN WCPA-Marine regional coordinators from up to 18 global regions, international experts, and individuals and authorities on marine conservation and management in the Gulf and Red Sea sub-region. The results of the workshop are expected to accelerate the recognition of marine protected areas within the World Heritage Convention and other related protected area initiatives at global and regional levels. A workshop report will be published and reported to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and will assist the future targeting of marine activities by UNESCO and IUCN.

[*source : http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/549*]

CONFERENCE REPORT

National Seminar on Reconstruction of Past: Scope and Limitations

Department of Museology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh organized a national seminar on "Reconstruction of Past : Scope and Limitations" on 14th February 2009. Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University; Dr Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts; Prof. Irfan Habib, historian and Prof. Emeritus; and more then one hundred climatologists, Paleontologist, Geneticists, Anthropologists, Ethnologists and Historians from all over the country participated in the seminar. The seminar discussed reconstructing the past for museum presentations and learning along with its limitations and scope.

[*source : http://nvonews.com/2009/02/05/national-seminar-on-reconstruction-of-past-scope-limitations/*]

National Seminar on Jain Archaeology in Madhya Pradesh

The national seminar on Jain Archaeology in Madhya Pradesh was held at Kalidas Academy, Ujjain on 17-18 January 2009. The seminar was organized by the department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Vikram University, Ujjain and Upadhyay Muni Sri Gyan Sagar Jain Shodh Sansthan, Gwalior.



The inaugural function was held on 17th January in the presence of pontiff/preceptor 108 Upadhyay Muni Shri Gyan Sagar ji Maharj and was presided by Prof. G.C. Pandey. Prof. M.N.P. Tiwari delivered the keynote address.

More than 100 research papers on various aspects of the Jain art, architecture, manuscripts, epigraphy, etc. were presented during the five technical sessions. The seminar was attended by eminent scholars, archaeologists and researchers from the Archaeological Survey of India, state archaeology departments, universities and other research institutions.

Valedictory function, held on 18th January, was presided by the Dr Mohan Gupta, Vice Chancellor of Maharsi Sanskrit University, Ujjain. Shri Paras Jain, Minister of food, Government of M.P. was chief guest on the occasion and Prof. R.N. Mishra delivered valedictory address. Upadhya Muni Shri 108 Gyan Sagar ji Maharaja expressed his views and blessed the all. Organisers expressed their thanks to all.

- Navneet Kumar Jain
Director, UMSGSJ Shodh Sansthan, Gwalior

PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE

Restoration of Reis Magos Fort, Goa

Police to Probe Damage to Heritage Building

16th century Reis Magos fort, which once served as an important post for the Adil Shah dynasty of Bijapur and later the Portuguese, is a protected heritage site, located a few kilometers from Panaji. The London-based Helen Hamlyn Trust had volunteered to provide Rs. 30 million for restoring the Reis Magos fort. The State government had entrusted the work to restore the 16th century monument to Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) through the Helen Hamlyn Trust, United Kingdom and the work was being supervised by architect Gerard D'Cunha. Restoration of this ancient monument was started in mid-2008 and was expected to be completed by November 2009.

In July 2008 a case was filed before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa, for the stoppage of work. In the complaint, restorers were accused of destroying, removing, altering and defacing the protected monument and damaging public property under the pretext of renovation. An NGO, the Goa Environment and Ecology Trust (GEET), claimed that a new structure was being built in the name of restoration and modern amenities were being added to the fort's existing structure, which was in violation to heritage rules. The JMFC had passed an order directing Police to register the offence against the accused. The JMFC's order was subsequently challenged before the Sessions Court and the case was dismissed on 3rd January. The order of the Sessions Court was then challenged before the High Court, which upheld the JMFC's order.

Acting on the directives of the High Court, Goa police has booked cases against Director of Archives and Archaeology, Government of Goa - Manohar Dicholkar; architect Gerard D'Cunha and the charitable trust - Helen Hamlyn of United Kingdom, on charges of altering and damaging Reis Magos fort. A first information report (FIR) has been filed under Section 30 of Goa, Daman and Diu Ancient Monuments and Archaeology Site and Remains Act, 1978, Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984, and Section 427 of Indian Penal Code.

[*source :* http://www.dailytimesindia.com/2009/02/34795.htm, http://www.sindhtoday.net/south-asia/58310.htm, http://oheraldo.in/pagedetails.asp?nid=16512&cid=2]

Encroachments in Tughlaqabad Fort

The Tughlaqabad fort was built by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in 1321 CE and is a protected monument. It is considered an important example of mediaeval military architecture. The monument is one of the three important forts of Delhi along with Red Fort and Purana Qila.

Delhi Police has filed three cases relating to illegal constructions in the 14th century fort in Tughlaqabad on the complaint of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). ASI had complained to Delhi Police that locals had carried out several constructions inside the fort. In fact, one person has allegedly dug a water borewell next to the structure. The Supreme Court had also barred in 2003 construction activities around this protected monument. According to a notification issued under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 no construction can be carried out within 100-metre radius of the protected monument.

This is the second time that this monument is in news for encroachment. In 2001, several local politicians, ASI officials, government servants and officials of Delhi Police were accused of selling land around the protected monument forcing the government to launch a CBI investigation into the matter. However, the CBI could not find any evidence against the alleged persons but said that a large portion of land was sold to illegal occupants of the area.

This time the Delhi Police has registered a case under section 447 (punishment for criminal trespass) of IPC and section 19 (restrictions on enjoyment of property rights in protected areas), 30 (whosoever destroys, removes, injures, alters, defaces, imperils or misuses a protected monument and 32 (offences to be cognizable) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

[*source :* *http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Delhi/Tughlaqabad_fort_encroachments_under_scanner/articleshow/4090097.cms*]

Preservation of Quila Mubarak at Patiala

Baba Ala Singh, founder of Patiala dynasty, built a "kachigarhi" or a mud fortress and named it Quila Mubarak. It dates back to 1763 CE. Later, it was reconstructed with baked bricks. It forms the core around which the walled city of Patiala developed. A petition is filed in the Punjab and Haryana High Court against the state of Punjab and others seeking directions to quash the state's decision to lease out Quila Mubarak for 66 years.

The Bench of Chief Justice Tirath Singh Thakur and Justice Jasbir Singh wants to know whether the government has declared the fort and the structure a protected monument and has also impleaded the Union of India, through the department of archeology, as a respondent.

[*source :* http://www.punjabheritage.org/content/view/1302/28/]

Heritage Preservation be included in Election Manifestos

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has drawn the attention of all national political parties in the country towards Article 51A and 49 of the Constitution. The NGO has urged these political parties to have a paragraph relating to preservation of natural and cultural heritage included in party's election manifesto. The commitment to the cause of protection of natural and man-made heritage would go a long way in promoting the cause of heritage awareness and would also symbolise the political will to protect the heritage.

[*source:*http://www.samaylive.com/news/parties-asked-to-include-heritage-preservation-in-manifestos/607867.html]

INTACH to Work for Monument Preservation

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the city government of Paris will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in areas of mutual concern in preservation of heritage monuments. The Spanish Foreign Ministry will also sign an agreement with the INTACH for cooperation in the fields of protection, promotion and management of cultural heritage between the two countries.

[*source :* http://www.indopia.in/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/497778/National/1/20/1]

EXCAVATIONS

Excavation at Ambari, Guwahati

The Guwahati Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the State Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Assam, have jointly undertaken the excavation at Ambari, an archaeological site in the city of Guwahati. Ambari is an important site and was earlier excavated between 1969 and 2004 and a large number of sculptures, beads, terracotta, etc. were found. Among the variety of pottery found here include some fragments of stamped

pottery and rouletted Roman wares. All these indicate the link of the site with China and Roman trade. The excavation provided evidence of human activities at the site between 7th - 8th century CE. A report on the excavation was also published.

Excavation started from 31 January, aimed at linking up the historical and cultural background of the site. Present excavation would try to document evidence, with a fresh stratigraphic approach, to interpret these with the existing hypothesis that the NE region was linked with an old silk route and an Indo-Burma Road in the days of yore. Attempts shall also be made at recasting observations on the already excavated materials in order to analyse afresh the significance of the site. There is also plan to turn the site itself into a museum in course of time.

[source : http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb0109/at07]

Buddhist Stupa Unearthed at Vadnagar, Gujarat

Gujarat State Archaeology Directorate is conducting excavation at Vadnagar since 2005, which has brought to light many significant antiquarian remains. In season 2007-08 a Buddhist monastery was uncovered (*Sanatan* 11: 3). The current excavation, started under the direction of Shri Y.S. Rawat, Director, Department of Archaeology, in the last week of December 2008, has brought to light a votive stupa, near the north eastern corner of the monastery.

The stupa was constructed in a terraced style i.e., square platforms in diminishing dimension raised one over another and the topmost surmounted by a semi circular *anda*. Three such terraces have been noticed. In the centre of the topmost terrace rests the circular base of stupa which is made of moulded bricks. The extant height of the stupa measures 1.30 m. The elevation shows that the lowermost terrace consists of four courses, the middle one of ten while only two courses are extant of the topmost terrace. The partially exposed plan shows that the lowest terrace would be 6.15 $m.^2$ the middle one 4.75 $m.^2$ and the topmost 2.95 $m.^2$. The circular *anda* measures 2.0 m. in diameter at the available base.

The presence of stupa and monastery has reconfirmed that during the early centuries of Common era, there had been a strong presence of Buddhists in Vadnagar. These finding



Vadnagar : Excavated votive stupa (source: Department of Archaeology, Gujarat 2009)

suggest that further excavation may bring to light a large complex with many such votive stupas. Recent findings also corroborates with account of Hiuen Tsiang who had visited Vadnagar in about 640 CE.

Stupa is one of the significant architectures of Buddhists. It is usually a sepulchral structure which contains relics of the great personalities. Stupa were of three types and were built either to enshrine the body-relicks (*saririka*) or the personal effects (*paribhogika*) or to commemorate spots and events of religious significance (*uddesika).* Dedication of stupas at Buddhist pilgrimages was considered an act of highest piety hence such votive stupas were generally constructed by the devotees around larger Buddhist stupa or shrine.

During the current session the site has been visited by several scholar, including Prof. Robin Conningham, Dr R.S. Fonia and Dr B.R. Mani. The visiting archaeologists have attested that the finding of Buddhist monastery at Vadnagar is a significant discovery in western India in the recent time.

- ***Y.S. Rawat***
Director, Department of Archaeology, Gandhinagar

Excavation at Kotilingala, A.P. Stopped

Kotilingala is located 35 km. from the district headquarters Karimnagar, it was the seat of the Satavahana dynasty whose territory extended up to Central India. Excavations carried out here, between 1978 and 1983, had unearthed 450 coins, gold beads, pottery and artefacts of decorative art.

The site is facing the threat of submergence by the Sripada Yellampally Project. An NGO and some historians had submitted memoranda to the Government to conduct thorough investigation and excavations on this 120-acre site. Just two days after the excavations were resumed, it had to be stopped due to local farmers demanding that they be paid compensation by the Archaeology Department before digging in their fields. Excavations would be resumed soon after the settlement of farmers demands.

[*source :* *http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Problems+at+Kotilingala&artid*]

TRAINING / COURSES

Classes on Inscription Reading

Academy for Archaeology and Sciences of Ancient India (AASAI), academic wing of REACH Foundation, Chennai inaugurated "inscription learning and reading contact classes". The course, inaugurate on 1 February 2009, would be conducted at the Natya department of Dr MGR Janaki college for women, near Adyar bridge, Chennai every Sunday from 7 to 9 a.m. It aims to educate youngsters in heritage related subjects and make them aware superior old technology and methods used in heritage in comparison to the modern architecture and other sciences. Many students from different walks of life have joined the course just to enrich their knowledge and love they have for culture and history.

Epigraphist, S. Ramachandran, who is conducting the classes teaches how easy it is to decipher and read the language once one get engrossed into the subject. REACH would be compiling all the course material and will upload the on-line course after this 16 week sojourn is over. The academy also plans to conduct study tours and heritage tours for the students to further strengthen their knowledge acquired through class room study.

PUBLICATIONS

2008-2009 World Heritage Map

The latest version of the World Heritage map is available now. The map is a valuable learning and awareness-raising tool that gives a rich and initial contact with the World Heritage concept, allowing UNESCO to communicate its work in this field on a large scale.



Large format (78 x 50 cm.) full-colour map features the 878 World Heritage sites and brief explanations of the World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage conservation programmes. It also has superb photos of World Heritage sites with explanatory captions. The original versions is available from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in English, French and Spanish. Through the partnership with National Geographic and its local magazines the map has also been published in Romanian, Serbian, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish languages.

The map produced by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and National Geographic Maps with support from the United Nations Foundation, can be ordered for a modest fee from the World Heritage Centre website. All proceeds from sales of the maps will go toward the preservation and promotion of World Heritage sites. It can also be downloaded free of charge from the website.

[*source : http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/481*]

LECTURES

The India International Centre (IIC), 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi is organizing a series of lecture on 'Indian Archaeology'. Following lecture are planned to be delivered -

17 February	Conservation of monuments in Uttrakhand Chair : B.M. Pande	S. Jamal Hasan	18.30 hrs
28 February	Excavations at Ahichchhatra (Bareily Distt.) Chair : B.R. Mani	D.N. Dimri	18.30 hrs
2 March	Buddhist Remains in Andhra Pradesh Chair : B.M. Pande	D.R. Gehlot	18.30 hrs

[*source : IIC*]

NEIGHBOURS

Kakrebihar Archaeological Site in Nepal

At Kakrebihar, a 12th Century archaeological site in remote Surkhet district in mid-western Nepal had yielded a treasure trove of sculptures and stone carvings during excavation conducted by the department of archaeology. In 2001, the Archaeological Survey of Nepal commissioned a survey and excavation of the mound that lies about three km. away from the district headquarters Birendranagar and the findings established the area as an important centre of Buddhist art.

Some Nepali historians believe the site was developed by King Ashoka Challa, who belonged to the powerful Malla dynasty that ruled Nepal from the 12th to 18th Century. Ashoka Challa's victories extended as far as Uttarakhand in India, where the king erected a pillar to celebrate a war victory in Gopeshwar temple.

The Kakrebihar mound is probably the biggest instance of rock architecture in Nepal. The ruins suggest a temple was built and decorated with images that illustrate the life of the Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, and his teachings. The excavation team had suggested that the temple could have been demolished by an invading army.

Around 2002-2003, the government decided to rebuild the temple. However, the work was halted by lack of funds as well as Maoist insurgency. Now, Buddhist monks have demanded to shelve the construction of the proposed temple and instead build a Buddhist shrine-cum-monastery. The dispute has cast a shadow over an architectural heritage that also has the potential to become a fabled tourist destination.

[source : http://www.sindhtoday.net/south-asia/60855.htm]

ERRATA

In the last issue (*Sanatan* 18: 3-5) we published a research article of **O.C. Handa** 'Traditional Acoustics System — A Discovery'. Inadvertently the name of the author wrongly published as Devendra Handa. We regret the mistake.

Notes for Contributors

Sanatan has become one of the fastest medium to share information on recent researches and expert views with a large number of professionals in related fields. Time to time we have informed our members about the contributions to *Sanatan*. With every issue our members are increasing and we keep getting communications in this regard.

Sanatan is an OPEN ACADEMIC FORUM where one can share any news or views which one feels would be of use to people in the field or researchers in allied subjects. You may send information on diverse subjects and in various formats. They may include —

Research articles	Short notes on recent discoveries
Reinterpretations	Important publications
Comments on vital issues	Views and photographs
News of general interest	Information on seminar and conferences
Reports on academic events	Invitation for contributing papers, etc.

It attempts to have frequent exchange of information among all those working in related fields for their benefit and in turn for the development of disciplines. All the members are therefore requested to keep sending their contributions for inclusion in bulletin and the annual issue.

Send your views, information, materials to sanatan08082008@gmail.com for sharing.